

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 4, 2005

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 4

Introduced by ~~Senator~~ Senators Alquist and Poochigian

March 8, 2005

Senate Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to the Republic of Cyprus.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 4, as amended, Alquist. ~~Republic of Cyprus~~: reunification.

This measure would commend the ~~Republic~~ *people* of Cyprus for ~~the many steps it is taking towards seeking~~ *their continued efforts in search of* a just resolution of the Cyprus problem and would also call on the President and Congress of the United States to continue our country's historic support for the reunification of Cyprus, while fully respecting that the government of the Republic of Cyprus is the only legitimate sovereign authority for the entire island of Cyprus.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California first welcomed immigrants from
2 Cyprus in the early part of the 20th century; and
3 WHEREAS, Cypriot Americans thereafter settled in
4 communities around the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and
5 San Francisco and in the agricultural centers of the Sacramento
6 Delta, and the San Joaquin and San Bernardino Valleys; and
7 WHEREAS, Today Cypriot Americans are contributing and
8 prospering in business, in academia, and in various professions in
9 California and across the United States; and
10 WHEREAS, ~~The Republic of Cyprus~~ itself has been forcibly
11 divided for more than 30 years by the Turkish invasion of the
12 ~~island in 1974 and through the continuous and ongoing~~
13 ~~occupation by Turkish troops of some 37 percent of the island's~~
14 ~~territory; and~~ *island in 1974; and*

1 WHEREAS, The United States has expressed consistent
2 support for the reunification of Cyprus based on the rule of law
3 and has encouraged efforts toward a resolution that respects the
4 rights of all Cypriots; and

5 *WHEREAS, A United Nations-sponsored plan, known as the*
6 *“Annan Plan,” was put to separate and simultaneous referenda*
7 *before the two communities of Cyprus on April 24, 2004, and*
8 *rejected by an overwhelming majority of Greek Cypriots in a*
9 *free, democratic and fair vote, since it did not sufficiently*
10 *address their basic concerns; and*

11 WHEREAS, Cyprus has taken a large strategic step forward
12 by joining the European Union (EU) in May 2004, and its EU
13 accession is enlarging the scope of cooperation between Cyprus
14 and the United States and will act as a further catalyst for a just
15 settlement of the Cyprus dispute; and

16 WHEREAS, Cyprus, together with other EU partners, took a
17 critical decision in December 2004, to permit Turkey to begin
18 EU accession talks on October 3, 2005, recognizing that Turkey
19 must abide by EU principles, values, and norms and this will
20 significantly contribute to the further development of a secure
21 and economically robust Eastern Mediterranean as well as
22 offering the prospect of providing a new context to resolve the
23 long-standing division of Cyprus; and

24 WHEREAS, The Republic of Cyprus has announced and is
25 implementing a series of economic and other measures to reach
26 across the island’s internal division and benefit the Turkish
27 Cypriots living in the northern occupied territory of the country;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Cyprus has as a goodwill gesture unilaterally
30 initiated a program to clear more than 2,300 mines in eight
31 minefields in the buffer zone dividing the island; and

32 WHEREAS, Cyprus is a valued ally in the fight against terror
33 ~~and has joined~~ *is expected to join* President Bush’s Proliferation
34 Security Initiative, an important step to battling the spread of
35 weapons of mass destruction; and

36 WHEREAS, A lasting, just, peaceful, and mutually agreed
37 upon solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the
38 security and the political, economic, and social well-being of all
39 Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between

1 Greece and Turkey, and would serve United States interests in
2 the region; and

3 WHEREAS, There has long been a strong friendship between
4 the Citizens of California and the people of the Republic of
5 Cyprus, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot alike; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
8 *California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California*
9 ~~commends the government of the Republic of Cyprus for the~~
10 ~~many steps it is taking towards seeking a just resolution of the~~
11 *commends the people of Cyprus for their continued efforts in*
12 *search of a just resolution of the Cyprus problem and calls on the*
13 President and the Congress of the United States to continue our
14 country's historic support for the reunification of Cyprus, while
15 fully respecting that the government of the Republic of Cyprus is
16 the only legitimate sovereign authority for the entire island of
17 Cyprus; and be it further

18 *Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of*
19 *this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United*
20 *States, to all Members of the Congress of the United States, and*
21 *to the author for appropriate distribution.*